

Webb Describes Polio's World of Pain, Helplessness

By JACK WEBB
FR 5-3051

Greetings to you all, fellow Rivierans! We've been away for a year almost to the week, and it's been quite a year, believe us. We've missed you and hope you missed us a little, too. Where have we been? Let's say it was a trip to the other side of the world. A world we'd heard of, but never really knew. It's a world of pain and helplessness, of wheelchairs and braces, of wracked body and tortured mind. They call it by another name on this side of the world. They call it polio.

This little bug is probably the most selective virus in the business. It only eats on one thing... it selects just the motor nerve endings in the spinal column, nothing else. After the virus gets its dirty work, there's a break in the line of impulses from the brain down to whatever muscle is connected to that particular motor nerve. Results, the brain commands, the muscle never gets the message, nothing moves. There are no words to describe this completely undone, helpless feeling that comes over you when your body does not respond to your wish. Or the wonderful exhilaration you feel when the muscles begin to respond to the hard, unending resistive therapy you undergo day after day, month after month.

We were fortunate enough to be sent to the California Rehabilitation Center in Santa Monica. This wonderful center is dedicated to rebuilding victims of polio, broken necks and backs, multiple sclerosis, and other neuro diseases. Corps of therapists and doctors and nurses have worked hard and long to put me and other scores of patients back into a productive, satisfying life. Believe me, it takes literally years of work to undo the terrifying devastation wrought by a virus like polio. It has taken a year to put me on my feet and walking with the aid of a cane and a crutch. Another year and I hope to be ambulating somewhat in normal fashion.

We've met wonderful people at the center, each one carrying a terrible load, and each with a smile and words of good cheer. We're proud to know each one of them and count them as our friends. To you who have never been on the other side of the world, let us say just this: Support the March of Dimes as fully as you can... they are doing monumental work and we can attest to it personally. Thousands of good people have been helped back by the Foundation; indeed, were it not for the March of Dimes, such recoveries would be impossible. The cost is simply tremendous and very few could ever afford it. Secondly, get your Salk shots for the whole family; polio is no respecter of age. The Center is treating polio victims from a few months old to 60 years old.

So again, let's say: We're sure glad to be back. We'll attempt to give you the news of all the exciting happenings around Riviera as they occur. Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 9 a.m. is the date set for Hollywood Riviera groups of the Peninsula Volunteers, Needlework Guild of America, to meet for a coffee hour program in the recreation building at El Retiro park.

Speaker will be Mrs. James Ingebretsen, president of the Peninsula Volunteers. She will outline plans for the coming year of Guild activity and explain the purpose of the Volunteer organization. Mrs. Elmer Hoppe, director of the six Riviera groups, is in charge of the planning for the morning coffee meeting.

According to Mrs. Truman

Adkins, publicity chairman for the Riviera groups, all members and friends who might be interested in becoming members of the Needlework Guild are invited to attend the coffee program. Each person attending is asked to bring a cup and spoon for her own use.

Hollywood Rivieran A. B. Dennis, 429 Via los Miradores, was elected secretary of North American Aviation's Management club. It was announced this week. He will be installed at the Management club's Jan. 25 meeting at Rodger Young auditorium in downtown Los Angeles.

North American's Management club has 2300 members, making it the second largest group of its kind in the country. It is affiliated with the National Management Association with more than 10,000 members.

More honors were heaped on Rivierans this week when the South Bay Exchange club installed Bill Beckman, 820 Calle de Arboles, as its president for the coming year. The installation ceremonies took place at a dinner held at the Pen & Quill restaurant last Thursday evening.

State vice president Fred J. Burmester was installing officer. Other state and national officers present included Joe Kenny, district governor, and Lawrence Montgomery, State Board of Control.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Merritt, 513 Paseo de las Estrellas, on Dec. 27 at Torrance Memorial hospital was a 9 lb., 2 oz. boy whom they have named James Roger. Young James joins sisters Judy, 5, and Kathy, 3, at the Merritt home.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kofford of Utah, while paternal grandparent is Mr. Frank S. Merritt of Redondo Beach.

Two Rivierans are accepting congratulations on being grandmother and great-grandfather, respectively, following a recent South Bay birth. They are Mrs. Nina Colvin, paternal grandmother of new arrival Mark Edward Colvin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mervin Colvin,

Redondo Beach, and Walter L. Norris, great-grandfather. Their new kin was born Dec. 18 at St. John's in Santa Monica, and weighed in at 7 lbs., 4 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kinsey, 520 Via la Selva, are entertaining her mother, Mrs. Vinie Legg of Columbus, Ohio, who plans to stay in Riviera for a month's visit. Mrs. Legg arrived via Santa Fe Chief on Christmas Day, and is becoming well acquainted with grandchildren Chris, 13, and Garry, 10. The Kinseys already have taken her on several Southern California sightseeing trips. Points of interest already covered include Death Valley, Knott's Berry Farm, San Juan Capistrano, Farmers Market, and the dear old Queen for a Day program.

Another recent visitor at the Kinseys was Mrs. Kinsey's brother, Ellis Legg, who visited them over the holidays.

Mrs. Charles W. Gift, 717 Calle Miramar, will be hostess today at a monthly Las Vecinas luncheon to be given at her home. Las Vecinas members to be present will include Mmes. J. F. Cowles, Melvin French, Charles Hickey, Herschel Kopp, Fred Sallatino, H. K. Inglis, J. B. Madden, Francis Stefko, and the president of Las Vecinas and daughter of the hostess, Mrs. Robert Matson.

And a double Happy Birthday to the family of Thorsten Burman, 315 Calle de Andaluca. One Happy Birthday goes to Lynn Burman, who was 15 on Jan. 18, and the other greeting to young Tommy Burman, who was 10 on Jan. 9. The Burmans held a small birthday party for the two last Saturday evening, with aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Burden Mebus, in attendance for the festivities.

We're getting to be a big city now! That's the viewpoint of several Rivierans who point out that our population is now bouncing around 85,000, far larger for instance than Santa Barbara or Riverside. Yet the city, its businesses and yes, even your home, are governed by a small town type of operation. The post of mayor, top

job in Torrance, is still being filled by councilmanic appointment. You, the voter, have absolutely nothing to say about who your mayor will be. More than that, the council may, for reason or no, change Torrance's mayor every council meeting if the whim hits them. Does this sound like a big city operation or small town? Does it sound adequate to meet city problems in the best possible way or does it sound archaic, outmoded and hopelessly inadequate for a real top notch job? We think it puts the person who holds the job in a rather impossible situation. He really has the odds stacked against him so far as doing an outstanding job is concerned. There are many many good reasons why grown up cities have the voters elect their mayor for a definite period of office. Not the least reason is that you, the voter, have the opportunity to name your own mayor. A very sound and typically American way of doing business.

You can change this. All that needs to be done is to vote the change in the city charter. Here's a great service some organization can take to help. How about it, service organizations; let's help our city grow up!

Here's a tip of the hat to our County Lifeguards and particularly Lifeguard Buddy

McCamy of Torrance Beach who last week saved the lives of two Riviera children and their friend when they were caught in a strong rip tide. The two rescued Rivierans were Lewis Dailey, 11, and his sister, Gail, 12, children of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence T. Dailey, 179 Via los Miradores. The two youngsters were playing with a visiting friend, John Abel, 10, on a surf mat when the rip tide caught them off Torrance Beach. Lifeguard McCamy brought all three in safely.

Young John Abel and his mother, Mrs. John Abel, were visiting the Daileys from their home in Indiana when the incident occurred.

The two groups of Rivierans locked in opposition currently must keep one thought primary: Don't let any Riviera child suffer or die because you cannot agree. That's the consensus of rational residents of Riviera. One group stands absolutely opposed to closing off Paseo de Gracia to west-bound turns onto the Coast Highway; the other group insists there must be a signal installed at Pacific Coast Hwy. and Tullita to let the Riviera children safely cross to their school. The State won't install the signal at Tullita unless they are allowed to block Paseo de Gracia traffic from turning left at the Highway. Did you

ever see more of a dilemma?

There is an answer that will care for the problem and Rivierans must find it. It is murder to send those children across the Pacific Coast Hwy. twice a day without a signal to protect them; and indeed it may be dangerous, as the other group puts it, to send more westbound traffic through Riviera because it cannot get out at Paseo de Gracia. Maybe another corner can be found; maybe we need a school tunnel under the highway or a bridge over it. Whatever the solution, let's find it quickly before some child is maimed or killed.

Plans for a Founders' Day program to be held next month were formulated at the last meeting of the Newton PTA board, held Jan. 10 at the home of Mrs. William Forrest, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Henry Graef presided over the meeting, which included a surprise shower for Mrs. Edward LaMotte, telephone chairman.

Chairman for the Founders' Day program will be Mrs. Robert Herrick, who presented her outline for the program and selected her cast for the

Founders' Day skit.

An honorary Life Membership committee appointed during the meeting included Mmes. Otto Willett, William Forrest, Harry Shires and Marvin Sims as members.

It was announced that the American Federation of Scholarships will provide the speakers for the Newton PTA meeting on Jan. 17 at the school cafeteria at 8 p.m. Scholarship students scheduled to speak are Christa Volkman of Vienna, Austria; Carl Hoybe of Copenhagen, Denmark; and a Torrance returnee from Germany, Tom Quaggin. Mrs. Francis Stoeckle, president of

Torrance PTA Council, will be moderator.

Refreshments will be served by second grade mothers.

5 Local Insurance Men to Attend Meet
Five staff managers in the Prudential Insurance Co.'s South Bay district agency have been selected to attend one-week leadership conferences in Los Angeles, according to the firm's western home office.

The five are George J. Early, Douglas R. Moulard, Richard R. Stiewel, Keith R. Fowler and Robert E. Jones. The first three will attend during the week of Jan. 14, the others will attend sessions started Jan. 21.

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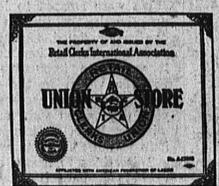
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